



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1303.0 - Discover the ABS, 2006 to 2008

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Summary

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From the Australian Statistician

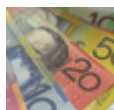
As the newly appointed Australian Statistician, I encourage Australians to consider the vitally important role that official statistics play in our society.



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Keep up-to-date with the latest Census information as it's released, by emailing census.users@abs.gov.au and typing 'add to Census email' in the subject field. You can opt out at any time.

From the Australian Statistician



From the Australian Statistician

Being Australia's official statistical organisation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is committed to assisting and encouraging informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments, business and the community.

As the newly appointed Australian Statistician, I encourage Australians to consider the vitally important role that official statistics play in our society. While use by government is obviously very important, it is also true that access to official statistics provides businesses and citizens with a window on the work and performance of government itself. Official statistics show the scale of government activity in every area of public policy, allowing the impact of public policies and actions to be assessed.

They also provide a strategic, but in my opinion – underutilised, resource for businesses and the wider community in more general planning and research activities. One of my goals at ABS will be to improve that level of use.

As an organisation, ABS strives to remain relevant to national needs by collecting the right sort of data, processing it to world-leading standards and delivering information solutions to our many clients. In doing this we strive at all times to minimise the burden on the Australian community by using existing data wherever possible to satisfy new needs and, where this isn't possible, by using sophisticated methodologies to reduce sample sizes and the time taken to participate in our surveys.

We are deeply committed to encouraging access to our statistics. Our website presents ABS data free-of-charge and is one of the most popular government sites in Australia. We also maintain a National Information and Referral Service to assist members of the public to access our data. More complex data requests can make use of the Customised Data Consultancy which provides expert help on a cost-recovery basis.

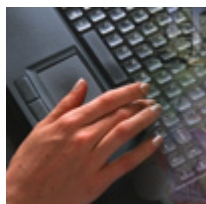
The highlight of 2007 for the Australian Bureau of Statistics is the release of the data collected last year in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. This will provide a wealth of new information for our community and governments as they seek solutions to challenges at both the national and local levels. I encourage you to stay up-to-date with the release details via our website.

Remember, the ABS is well placed to help you take the right steps – with the right information – to make informed decisions.

Please don't hesitate to contact the ABS if you think we can help.

Brian Pink
May 2007

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[ABS in Brief](#)
[ABS in the Media](#)

[Discover \[www.abs.gov.au\]\(http://www.abs.gov.au\)](#)
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[ABS in Brief](#)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is Australia's national statistical agency. Our mission is to assist and encourage informed decision-making, research and discussion within governments and the community, by leading a high-quality, objective and responsive national statistical service.

The ABS has a key central role in expanding and improving the range of statistics available on the performance of our economy, the well-being of our population, the condition of our environment and the challenges faced by regional and rural communities. This not only involves the ABS collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating a wide range of statistics itself, but also working with other federal, state and local government agencies to help them do likewise with the vast array of data they collect during the course of administrative processes.

We:

- maintain a high-quality website with a wide range of freely available statistics
- design and conduct the five-yearly national Census of Population and Housing
- design and conduct complex surveys from which national economic indicators are derived, such as the Household Expenditure Survey and the Economic Activity Survey
- analyse and release the data collected to provide meaningful and high-quality statistics which are widely used by governments, businesses and the media
- provide statistical consulting, modelling, analysis, training and support.

Would you like to know when statistics that interest you are released?
Register for our free email notification service.

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[ABS in the Media](#)

The ABS is a valuable source of news stories and objective information that can be used to inform and interest the public. It is drawn on extensively by both national and international media. The headline news stories that typically follow the release of important and well-known statistics (such as unemployment or inflation) are the most obvious examples of the ABS in the media. The population and social statistics published by the ABS are also well received by journalists because they are a rich source of stories about Australians' lives and their environment. The media also show a keen interest in the Population Census, about how it is run and the information it provides.

Each year there are more than 10 000 newspaper and magazine articles, and a similar number of radio, television and internet news stories about the statistics released by ABS.

Refer to News & Media for more information.

Journalists wishing to contact the ABS to arrange interviews with ABS spokespeople can call the media hotline on 1300 175 070

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[Discover www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

All statistics on www.abs.gov.au can be accessed and downloaded free of charge. The ABS website contains over 1 million pages and is updated daily at 11:30 am AEST. This means you can access a wide range of new product releases each day. You can also scan the latest headlines, find up-to-date information about services the ABS provides, and read the most recent ABS media releases just by visiting our home page.

The ABS website is the primary access point for the majority of users of ABS information. It contains ABS publications and statistics released since 1994, and its pages are accessed about 5 million times each month, or 62 million times per year.

Visit www.abs.gov.au for:

- statistics – search for products by catalogue number, release date, topic or title
- all products released since 1994
- Census information – a new and exciting range of products including QuickStats, StatMaps, Census Tables and Community Profiles
- information about the ABS
- schedule of future releases
- registering to the Email Notification to be notified of the latest ABS releases
- career information
- teaching resources for educators
- statistics training and more.

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[Have your say](#)

The ABS website is constantly evolving to meet your online needs. We regularly ask our online clients for feedback about the site. As a result the website is continuously being upgraded to meet users requirements. This means a design which is easy for you to use and navigate at the click of your mouse.

[Contact us](#) to have your say.

Statistical themes



Statistical themes

The ABS provides a comprehensive statistical service relevant to Australia. This service provides timely, accurate and objective statistics for use by government, industry and the community. ABS statistics can be found under the following themes:

[Economy](#)

[People](#)

Economy

The ABS collects, compiles and disseminates data on all major economic fields. Government and industry use this economic data to understand trends in the Australian economy, identify drivers of economic growth, evaluate economic performance, and for the formulation and assessment of economic policy.

Refer to Themes for more information.

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Environment and energy

A program of environmental statistics was implemented by the ABS in 1991 focusing on compiling, analysing and publishing a wide range of topics for use by the government, industry and the community. It has grown in response to an increasing demand for information linking the relationship between social, environmental and economic statistics. The ABS has adopted a long-term perspective to enable development of a time series that will assist informed decision-making.

Refer to Themes for more information.

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Industry

A broad cross-section of Australian industry data is collected on topics including agriculture, construction, transport, tourism and the services industry. New statistical concepts have been developed to measure the changes between consumer and business behaviour and reaction in response to the growth in the global economy which has caused rapid expansion of products and services for consumers and businesses.

Refer to Themes for more information.

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People

The Census of Population and Housing held every five years is the principle source of information about Australia's population. It is instrumental in identifying trends in the Australian population, such as indigenous people, the role of migration in population growth, and issues concerning an ageing population. Population statistics measure the size, growth, composition, geographical distribution and components suggesting change. They also provide background discussion on a wide range of issues concerning the community.

Refer to Themes for more information.

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Regional

Australia is a highly urbanised country with about 85% of its population living around 50 km from the coast, but demand for rural and regional data is increasing as the government focuses on issues in those areas. The development of mesh blocks enables improvement of data about regional areas. Combined with a standard coding referencing file, the data is easily integrated between organisations, leading to improved government policy formulation and service delivery.

Refer to Themes for more information.

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We can help you find the answers



We can help you find the answers

Customised Data Service

Up-to-date details on exports and imports

Expert survey advice

Statistical training

Flagship Publications

Licensed Distributors of ABS data

We can help you find the answers

Do you need assistance to find what you are looking for? Speak to an ABS consultant who has experience across a range of statistical information to help you get the answers you need. Our consultants will either answer your enquiry over the phone or can explain the material available on the ABS website and in many public libraries.

Call 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au

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Customised Data Service

For your more complex enquiries, we can provide a range of additional data on a fee-for-service basis. Our customised consulting service gives you in-depth access to all ABS statistics for your detailed demographic, social, health, environmental, international trade and economic information needs. Our consultants are experienced with all types of

information requests. With offices in every state and territory, we will help you identify what statistical information is available, how relevant it is to your request and what else may be able to assist with your business needs.

We can:

- provide tailored reports with tables, commentary, graphs and maps highlighting the characteristics you are interested in
- produce customised demographic data for projections and planning purposes
- provide the very latest data, historical data or long time series.

Call 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au

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Up-to-date details on exports and imports

If you are looking for market development opportunities in Australia or overseas, ABS International Trade data should be at the core of your research no matter what your industry. Our International Trade Service is a charged service which can provide you with timely, regular reports on Australia's exports and imports for the commodities of interest to you. Subscription reports, delivered by email, can be provided at monthly, quarterly or annual intervals.

Call 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au

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Expert survey advice

Our statisticians have many years of experience and internationally recognised expertise in survey design and data analysis. They can assist public sector clients with the analysis and use of ABS data.

Other services are also available to official public sector bodies, including:

- survey and sample design
- data analysis and modelling
- methodological reviews.

Thinking of conducting your own survey?

Take advantage of our reputation for integrity and confidentiality, and let us do the work for you. The Statistical Survey Service caters for the specific survey needs and requirements of government agencies and some other organisations.

For more information call 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au

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Statistical training

Through the National Statistical Training Institute, the ABS offers a range of training courses for anyone wishing to develop their statistical skills. Programs are available for beginners or those at a more advanced level. These programs cover skills used in developing high-quality statistical collections, in statistical analysis or to help you understand and make the best use of ABS information.

ABS training includes courses on how to:

- analyse data or conduct statistical analysis
- use data to write reports or social commentary
- design surveys or questionnaires
- use statistics in decision making
- ensure statistics are used appropriately.

For more information call 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au

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Flagship Publications

Social and economic issues about life in Australia are covered by a range of key publications the ABS produces. Year Book Australia (cat.no. 1301.0) provides a comprehensive source of facts about Australia. The Year Book has around 30 chapters which cover Australia's economic position and social conditions, as well as topical articles.

Measures of Australia's Progress (cat.no.1370.0) is a biennial publication which provides a digestible selection of statistical evidence that will allow Australians to make their own assessment of whether life in Australia is getting better. It does this by painting a picture of national progress over the past ten years, focusing on 14 headline dimensions across our economy, society and the environment. These include health, work, national income and wealth, economic hardship, the natural environment, family, community and social cohesion.

Australian Social Trends (cat.no. 4102.0) is released annually and offers all Australians an easy-to-understand collection of articles and key indicators about current social issues and the latest trends in our constantly changing society.

Analytical articles cover population, family and community, health, education and training, work, economic resources, housing and other areas of social concern, such as crime and the environment.

Internet users can freely access the content from our flagship publications. Hard copies of these publications can be ordered at a cost.

For more information call 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au

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Licensed Distributors of ABS Data

At the ABS we want to see our statistics widely available and widely used. We encourage the distribution of our data by Licensed Distributors. A current list of Licensed Distributors and general conditions associated with becoming a Licensed Distributor of ABS data can be found under [How do I become a licensed Intermediary?](#)

The ABS has adapted to many changes since 1905 when the concept of a national statistical office was first instituted. We remain a relevant and respected organisation in Australia and internationally.

For more information call 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au

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Census Products and Services



Census products and services

Keep up-to-date with the latest Census news and information as it's released, by e-mailing census.users@abs.gov.au. You can opt out at any time.

[Free Downloads from **www.abs.gov.au**](#)
[Development of new 2006 Census](#)
[Dynamic products](#)
[Agricultural Census](#)

[Services for Schools](#)
[Services for Universities](#)
[Services for Libraries](#)

Free Downloads from www.abs.gov.au

The full range of Census data is available online, free of charge. Electronic publications (PDF and HTML based content), Census community profiles down to Collection District (CD) level, spreadsheets and data cubes can be downloaded via the following online options:

'New' QuickStats – a quick and simple summary of key Census data relating to persons, families and dwellings.

'New' Census Tables – a product that provides you with Census data in a single table for a specified geographic area.

'New' MapStats – a great range of thematic Census maps based on larger geographies depicting selected population, ethnicity, family, income, labour force and dwelling

characteristics.

Community Profiles – a series of profiles providing key Census characteristics related to persons, families and dwellings covering most topics on the Census form.

For more information call 1300 135 070 or email census.users@abs.gov.au

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Development of new 2006 Census Dynamic products

‘New’ CDATA Online – a sophisticated product aimed at offering users the freedom to:

- customise their own geographic areas
- combine topics of interest to create their own custom tables
- chart and thematically map the data.

‘New’ Table Builder – aimed at experienced Census data users.

This exciting product will allow you to design and populate your own tables of Census data via an interactive web interface.

These new products will revolutionise the way in which you use/view Census data.

Census Tables Customised for your needs

Customised Census Tables allow you to specify the combination of Census variables and geography required for your needs.

Your user-defined table can be delivered in Excel or Supertable format.

Final specifications and costs will be confirmed with you by an ABS consultant before tables are processed and delivered.

For more information call 1300 135 070 or email census.users@abs.gov.au

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Agricultural Census

Around 190 000 businesses took part in the Agricultural Census held in June 2006.

The Agricultural Census is Australia’s biggest collection of agricultural statistics. It is conducted by the ABS every five years and collects production and related data from primary producers around the country. The information produced from the Agricultural Census can assist people such as policy makers and industry bodies to make informed decisions about the agricultural sector. The data from the Agricultural Census helps Australia understand changes that have occurred in the sector and measures the contribution that agriculture makes to the economy.

For additional information call 1300 135 070 or email census.users@abs.gov.au

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Services for Schools

The Education Resources pages contain a wide range of free information and resources from the ABS Education Services.

Education Resources includes:

- CensusAtSchool – an online data collection and analysis project, engaging students with real data about themselves
- an extensive range of classroom activities covering all Key Learning Areas
- statistical resources for the classroom including activity sheets, datasets, definitions, explanations and instructions on running surveys and incorporating data into research projects.

Statpak Online provides links to ABS products selected for their relevance to the curriculum. Over 100,000 students have participated in the CensusAtSchool project. For more information Refer to CensusAtSchool project to find out how to get involved.

To find out more about ABS education resources call Education Services on 1800 623 273. In the Melbourne metro, call (03) 9615 7041 or email schools@abs.gov.au.

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Services for Universities

The ABS has an agreement with the Australian Vice Chancellors' Committee to support academic research and teaching in Australian universities. This agreement facilitates access for participating university staff and students to Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) for research and teaching purposes. CURFs contain detailed data from ABS surveys in the form of confidentialised unit records. Over 70 Basic and/or Expanded CURFs for most of the key ABS social and labour surveys have been made available to date.

For more information email microdata.management@abs.gov.au

The Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) provides access to more detailed CURF data than can be provided on CD-ROM. Basic data is available on CD-ROM and via the RADL. The RADL is a secure online batch data query service available via the ABS website using SAS, SPSS and Stata ® software.
For more information email radl@abs.gov.au

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Services for Libraries

The ABS supports libraries across Australia in all sectors – public, government, education and specialist (including libraries in rural and remote locations). We provide free website

training and support to library staff to ensure they can help users with their information needs.

For more information or to discuss your needs with a local Information Skills Consultant, call 1300 135 070 or email library@abs.gov.au

About this Release

Containing information about the role of the ABS, and the products and services it provides, Discover the ABS is a useful starting point for developing a greater understanding of how you can utilise the ABS to benefit your decision making.

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